

# The Cathedral Chronicle

Volume 23: No. 2

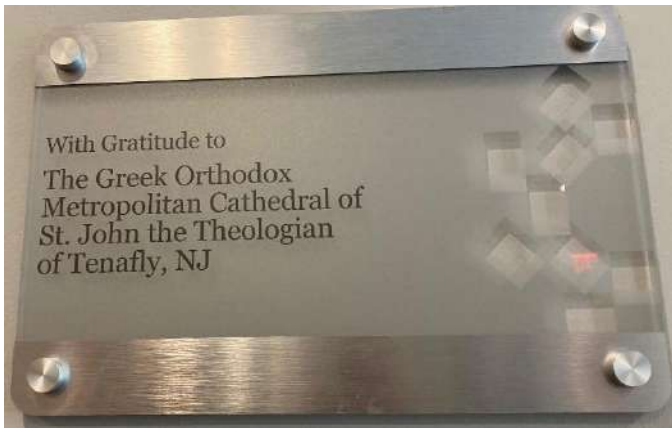
June 25, 2022



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary GALA donation update:

This is an update concerning the \$40,000.00 donation of the Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral of St. John The Theologian to the Outpatient Addiction Treatment Center, operated by the Hackensack Meridian Health Center in Mahwah, New Jersey, known as The Retreat & Recovery Center at Ramapo Valley.

We are pleased to notify you that a plaque memorializing the donation has been installed in the entrance foyer of the facility. Below is a photo of the plaque.



We are also pleased to inform you that several patients have already been successfully treated through the program since our donation in large part due to your support, and those patients have been reunited with their families as a result.

Congratulations to the entire Cathedral Parish and her friends for this worthy endeavor.



Arthur N. Chagaris, Esq.  
Chris E. Tsamutalis, CPA.  
Co-Chairs, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

Stavro Soussou, Parish Council President, at the time of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala.

Steven Ferranti, Parish Council President.

Stella Baker, President of Philoptochos, at the time of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala.

Elizabeth Goldman, C.A.R.E. coordinator.



## President's Message:

Dear Families of St. John the Theologian,

On behalf of the Parish Council, I pray that this finds you all safe and well.

We, as a community, are especially thankful to Father Angelo, the church staff, and the Parish Council for their active support and leadership during this past Lenten Season.

I am excited to announce that we have started the updating of the Fellowship Hall and Rev. Socrates Tsamutalis Cultural Center thanks to a very generous donation by Mrs. Jean Milanos and her daughter Nina. We are expecting to have the renovation of the hall, atrium, and Hellenic corridor completed on schedule.

On June 3-5 we hosted our 51st Annual Taste of Greece Festival. On behalf of the entire St. John the Theologian Community, I express a special thank you to Vickie Rokkos and Elaina Charas for co-charing the festival and to all the dedicated volunteers, area leaders, sponsors, vendors, and donors for making our largest annual fundraiser a huge success!

Our Greek School just had its commencement and we celebrated 4 graduates this year. It was great to see all of the students who desire to learn our Greek Language and study our Greek Heritage. Congratulations to the Graduates.

While we are not back to pre-pandemic enrollment in many of our youth ministries such as Greek School and Sunday School, it is our hope that we will return to full enrollment soon.

Parents, Please sign your children up for Sunday School, Greek School, GOYA, or any of the other youth ministries in our community for a start in September.

Fr. Angelo and Our Parish Council have made the youth and the young families our focus to help us continue to build our Community.

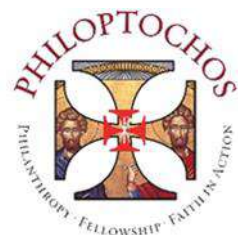
We have created the following a winning aspiration: "To be the community that is recognized as having the best youth programs and ministries that will enable our Cathedral of St. John the Theologian to increase our membership and bring more people to Jesus Christ."

In order to succeed, we need Volunteers, Programs, Fundraising, and our Facilities. We have created action groups to create goals and objectives to drive this aspiration and ensure that our Cathedral of St. John the Theologian will be around for many generations as an example of our Orthodox Faith, Greek Language, and Greek Culture.

Have a great and safe Summer.

Yours in Christ,

*Stephen E. Ferranti*  
Parish Council President



## St. Philothea Philoptochos Society News



On behalf of St. Philothea Philoptochos Society, I pray that this message finds you all well and looking forward to a relaxing summer! Now that our ecclesiastical year has come to an end, I would like to share news about many recent accomplishments of our chapter.

### SOME OF OUR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS WINTER AND SPRING

#### Feeding the Hungry and Supplying Essentials to the Needy:

- **Family Promise, Hackensack, NJ - Feeding the Homeless** – Continued distributing complete dinners to the homeless.
- **Center for Food Action, Englewood NJ - Local Food Pantry** – Continued shopping and delivering food to our local food pantry on multiple occasions.
- **Operation Classroom - Comfort Closet** – Continued supporting this program of providing essential for needed students in various schools in Newark NJ.



**Supporting the Zappeion School for Girls in Constantinople** – The New Jersey Metropolis Philoptochos, with the contributions from NJ Chapters, including St. Philothea, presented his Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America with a check for \$11,500 to help support the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Zappeion School for Girls in Constantinople. The school enables young women to further their education and preserves our Greek Orthodox faith, culture and traditions.

#### Donating to Other Charitable Organizations

- Graduation gifts for St. Basil's Academy graduates
- Ronald McDonald House, NY Greek Division
- Lampides Research Foundation
- Ukraine Relief Fund

**Social Service Committee** – Our Committee continually and discreetly distributes supermarket certificates and support to local families and individuals in need through our confidential vetting process. Please contact Fr. Angelo or Maria Kamilaris if you know of anyone needing assistance.

#### Metropolis Philoptochos Contributions:

- Emergency Social Service Fund
- School of the Patriarchate Fund

**National Philoptochos Contributions:**

- Autism Assistance Fund
- St. Photios Shrine Fund
- Orthodox Christian Mission
- Support a Mission Priest
- HCHC Lenten Event
- IOCC Fund
- Sisterhood of St. Basil Academy
- Orthodox Christian Fellowship Fund
- 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Founders Fund

**March General Meeting Guest Speaker** – At our General Meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, we were pleased to have Dr. Marios Christodoulou of Branch Physical Therapy & Wellness in Tenafly come and speak to us about our physical health and wellness while we enjoyed some delicious refreshments prepared by our own Philoptochos members. Sincere thank you to Dr. Christodoulou, who is a knowledgeable physical therapist, for giving us some practical tips on nutrition, exercise, and stretching that we can all incorporate into our daily lives to help us look and feel great at any age!

**Benefit for Philanthropy Fundraising Event** – On May 5, we held our main fundraiser event for the year at the Edgewood Country Club in River Vale, to benefit our outreach program and the Operation Classroom – Comfort Closet initiative. The evening included an elegant cocktail hour, dinner, extensive array of raffle and gift items and a silent auction featuring lavish prizes. The mission of this ongoing initiative is to



offer support to teachers and students in underserved and underfunded schools by providing everyday essentials that are not available through the local school districts, such as snacks, supplies, toiletries, clothing, and weekend meals throughout the school year. Funds raised at the event will help us continue our mission to help the less fortunate. Some of the funds will also directly aid the Technology High School in Newark, as well as other New Jersey schools and students in need. A huge THANK YOU goes out to all who supported us by generously sponsoring this elegant evening, donating gifts and prizes, and all who attended. It was a wonderful success and, I trust, greatly enjoyed by all!

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**NJ Metropolis Honoree Banquet** – On May 9, many from our chapter attended the annual Metropolis Honoree Banquet at the Venetian in Garfield to support all our parish honorees. This year, Dina Gaitanaros was selected as our Philoptochos honoree. The honor was well deserved as Dina is a past Philoptochos Board member and an ongoing active member known for her dedication and selfless hard work for our chapter. A heartfelt CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU to Dina! ΠΑΝΤΑ ΑΞΙΑ!!! And congratulations also to all our other parish honorees!

**Baking and selling of pites and sweets for our Annual Festival** – In May, our



Baking Committee, with the gracious help of many talented member-volunteers, worked tirelessly to bake many trays of spanakopita and tyropita and hundreds of sweets to sell at our church’s annual festival held June on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. Several additional volunteers and Board members also worked hard to sell them at the festival, which was a great success! An additional 500 sweets were baked



for the July 2022 Philoptochos National Convention in New York City! THANK YOU sincerely to everyone who came out and helped!!

**Philoptochos members end-of-year dinner party –**



On June 7, our chapter enjoyed a delicious, casual dinner at AXIA Taverna in Tenafly to close out the year and celebrate all our hard work and accomplishments. It was a nice chance to sit back and relax and engage in lively conversation among good friends. THANK YOU to all who attended and had fun with us!



***Dues and private donations have been a huge help to keep our mission going. If you have not yet done so, please mail in your 2022 dues or go to the Philoptochos page on our Cathedral website or use the link below to submit your stewardship dues and donations. We are thankful to everyone who continues to support us!***

**<https://www.stjohntenafly.org/philoptochos/about-philoptochos>**

**I wish everyone a happy, healthy, and restful summer! See you all in September!**

**With love in Christ,  
Maria Kamilaris, President**

## *Greetings from the PTO*

Χριστός Ανέστη! We hope that everyone is doing well and staying healthy. A very **BIG** congratulations to our 2022 Oratorical Festival winners and to Eleni Coyle for her amazing dedication and efforts to this wonderful festival. We were so impressed with our students' talent and knowledge of their faith.

Special recognition to Eleni Papageorgiou for winning the Three Heirarch's Essay Contest for the State of New Jersey!!!! Congratulations!

### **Oratorical Festival Speech:**

**Elementary Division:** Carly Gemmellaro  
**Junior Division First Place:** Eleni Papageorgiou  
**Senior Division First Place:** Emma Papanicolaou

### **Oratorical Festival Essay:**

**Junior Division First Place:** Maria Galiotos  
**Senior Division First Place:** Tony Galiotos



Congratulations to the Honorees recognized by the NJ Metropolis Banquet for all their hard work for our community! A special Congratulations and thank you to our PTO honoree Aphrodite Microutsicos for her dedication to our youth, our Greek and Sunday school programs and our PTO! She is the heart of our organization and our families and children are lucky to have her. Πάντα Αξία!



Our youth participated in the Greek flag raising outside of the Englewood Cliffs Fire Department ahead of March 25, 2022 to celebrate Greek Independence. Members of the Goya dance group, Boy Scout Troop 25 and our Greek School proudly joined in the festivities.



Our youth also participated in the Sunday of Orthodoxy icon procession. This event was truly beautiful and memorable for students and parents alike. After the procession the children enjoyed a special treat from the ice cream truck.



We were so pleased to see everyone back in Church for Holy Week. Our tsoureki sales were a big success and we thank you dearly for your support. Our youth enjoyed palm making and many of our young girls joined Good Friday service as myrofores. Our favorite event was our Easter Retreat where we had a special visit from the Easter Bunny and we were able to enjoy an Easter egg hunt and petting zoo!









Congratulations to our 2022 Greek School Graduates for your amazing achievements! The PTO was proud to sponsor the Greek School Graduation decoration, gifts and celebratory dinner. We hope our youth continue to learn our beautiful language, culture and religion.



We celebrated the close of our year with a wonderful party where the children and adults enjoyed fun games and maybe got a little carried away with the pie throwing!



Finally, our youth danced beautifully at the Cathedral's Taste of Greece Festival.





The PTO extends a very special thank you to our Greek and Sunday School administration and teachers for their exemplary dedication to our children. It warms our hearts that you have shared so much of your time to help shape the minds, hearts and futures of our Greek Orthodox youth.

We look forward to next Fall. We plan to begin Greek Dance enrollment in September, and also hope to be able to continue organizing some more fun events for our community to enjoy.

Last but not least thank you to all our board members who dedicate their time and enthusiasm to fundraising and planning events designed to enrich our children's religious, cultural and educational experiences.

It truly is a gift to be able to raise our children in our Cathedral. We are in need of assistance and are asking for participation from new members. The more helping hands we have, the more we can do for our community. Should you wish to join the PTO please feel free to reach out to us at [stjohnspto.353@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnspto.353@gmail.com). Also follow us on Facebook (PTO St. John's Cathedral) for updates and event information.

Wishing you all a wonderful and safe summer!

PTO

***Ioanna Koutroubas & Mariella Kapsaskis***

# KALI PAREA

## CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN

Dear Kali Parea Member:

We are sorry that, due to the renovation of our church hall, we have not been able to schedule our monthly Kali Parea meetings. We look forward to starting up again in September, at which time we are planning to hold elections for the year 2022-2023. The board will continue to serve until then.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer; we look forward to seeing everyone again in September.

Peter Baganakis  
President

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## Scholarships

### **St. John the Theologian Scholarship**

For children of Stewards of St. John who are High School Seniors or in College. Previous recipients are not eligible.

Deadline for Application: August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Will be presented in September

Award not to exceed \$1000

Contact church office for info, 201-567-5072

### **Basil S.Hilaris,MD Memorial Scholarship**

For children of Stewards of St. John who are High School Seniors or in College entering a Medically related program. Previous recipients are not eligible.

Deadline for Application: July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Will be presented in July

Award not to exceed \$2500

For info and application contact

[Hilarispb@aol.com](mailto:Hilarispb@aol.com)

## AHEPA:

Dear Stewards of St John the Theologian,

I pray all is well with you and your families. The Bergen Knights have been busy focusing our attention to giving back to our St John's and Greek communities. Thanks to stewards like yourselves for supporting our Journal book last year, we will be making a donating of \$1000 to St George in Clifton (this was our first church once our organization was established), \$1000 to The Church of Ascension in Fairview (the Mother church of St John the Theologian), and \$3000 has been earmarked to the St John's Greek School. An Easter donation, for the flower's needed to decorate the Holy Cross was given during Lent.

Our giving also extended beyond our church communities as we also gave a \$1000 to the AHEPA Capital Campaign Fund which will help sustain AHEPA's legacy and grassroots program to help defend Hellenism, \$2000 to the IOCC for the Ukrainian relief efforts, and two large clothing donations to the Karen's Kitchen group in Paterson. Thanks to Brother Mark Melis and councilman Tim Koutroubas we put together a Greek Independence Day Flag raising ceremony at the Englewood Cliffs Fire House this past March. The event was well attended and numerous speeches moved the audience highlight by our keynote speaker, Dr Dimitri Papanicolaou. We want to thank the Fort Lee Hellenic Civic Club for their breakfast reception donation that followed the ceremony. We concluded our fiscal year on AHEPA Sunday (the third Sunday in May) by hosting a memorial service for our deceased brothers, followed by our annual AHEPA recognition award(s). Each year the chapter recognizes the contributions of people within our community guided by the theme "Maintain the Values and Spirit of Your Hellenic Heritage". This year we honored the three Presbyteres of our community, Patricia Artemas, Sevasti Tsamutalis, and Marika Tsigonis. Finally, we also awarded our annual scholarship in the amount of \$1000, to Evan Nicholas.

As the summer months approach and we beginning to take some well deserved time off with our families, our AHEPA chapter is busy planning numerous events for the second half of 2022. These events will be focused towards fellowship, in order to grow the chapter's membership. Details will be announced once finalized.

I want to congratulate The Bergen Knight's new President, Brother Dr. Peter Hilaris. Dr Hilaris, has been my Vice President during these past 5 years always providing sound advise. As a Scout Master, for our Troup 25, he is well aware of what it takes to be a leader. I wish him all the success in moving this chapter forward. He will do a fantastic job as the new president of the Bergen Knights.

I also would like to take this opportunity to thank the numerous people who have help make my time as AHEPA President a truly rewarding experience. Beginning with my leadership team, Brothers Peter Hilaris, Constantine Mikelis, and Kypros Lambiris, along with the rest of our members. As I reflect back on our chapter's accomplishments, the past 5 years, we truly did some amazing things together and I believe our chapter is well poised to continue to achieve even greater success. I also want to thank Fr. Angelo Artemas, Fr. Peter Zougras and the Parish Council of St John's for always supporting AHEPA's mission and being accommodating to our requests. A special THANK YOU to past Philoptochos President Stella Baker and the ladies of St Philothea of St John. It was wonderful working together on numerous fund raising events to help the less fortunate. The synergy established between our organizations, leads to more philanthropy to the community at large and that is a very good thing for our Cathedral.

Thank you to everyone for the time and courtesy and God Bless.

Fraternally and Respectfully,  
Demetrios Bayiokos  
President Bergen Knights  
AHEPA Chapter 285

## GOYA:

It's hard to believe another GOYA year has to come to a close ! We had an amazing group of kids who all came together for so many fun and meaningful events that gave us opportunities to bond with one another, as well as help others through our charitable endeavors.

The Sights and Sounds were held at Holy Trinity in Westfield and gave our members the chance to showcase their many talents ! Our Church was well represented , with many award recipients. Winners for first place included :

Marco Ponerros: senior essay  
Liana Gourmos: junior poetry  
Evi Nikas: sewing  
Flower making, mixed media, beading  
and cartoons: Callie Milionis  
Print making, Christopher Kaloudoy

We were FINALLY able to resume our popular "White Out" dance after a 2 year hiatus due to the pandemic. GOYANS from several Churches donned white and hit the dance floor to celebrate! The dance raised \$8,000 for charities that help children with cancer, including Tomorrow's Children Fund and St. Jude's Hospital, which brought sick children from war torn Ukraine to the US to be treated. We hope our funding will make a difference in the fight against cancer, and we continue to pray for all those children affected.

We were also able to resume GOYA Olympics this year ! We converged on Monmouth University in Long Branch during Memorial Day weekend, proudly wearing our red uniforms to represent our Cathedral! The weather was perfect for outdoor track meets,

and a lot of fun was had day and night! We took part in religious services and practiced our beautiful faith together with other young Orthodox Christians. The dance Saturday night was a great way to relax and have fun after a day of intense competition! We did well in the final standings:

Senior boys, 4 x 100 3rd place (Spiro Salonitis, Ted Staphos, Alex Orechio and John Minnetian)

Senior girls 4 x 100, 2nd place (Angelina Giakoumatos, Eleni Timotheou, Evelyn Pavlatos, Theodora Poulos)

Junior girls 2 x 100, 3rd place (Eleni Papageorgiou, Elie Gourmos, Katerina Dokas, Mia Callahan)

Mixed relay 4 x 200, second place (Marko Ponerros, Lianna Gourmos, Aris Mouzakis, Mia Callahan)

Christos Timotheou, Anna Kira Ponerros, Alex Orechio, Spiro Salonitis and Callie Milionis all took home individual medals!

The GOYA year ended with a splash...with a fun pool party at the Dokas residence ! We look forward to creating more memories next year after a safe and fun filled summer.

Thanks again to our amazing advisors, Pauline Zervoudis , Chrissy Nanos , Denise Socrates and Alkistis Meimaris .

Best wishes,  
Peter Dokas



### **Boy Scouts:**

Troop 25 & Pack 25 gives the scouts a chance to participate in activities that help enhance outdoor skills and appreciation, civic awareness, leadership skills, and good morals, all to become "Prepared for Life". Cub Scouts goes from K -5<sup>th</sup> Grade. Boy Scouts goes from 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.

The Scouts have attended many events recently: In March we participated in the Greek Independence Day Ceremony in Englewood Cliffs, raising the Greek Flag. In May we participated in the Tenaflly Memorial Day Parade. The EOCS (Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting) Camporee in Alpine and a Sports Extreme Weekend campout in the Catskills were both held in May. We also helped to run our Fish Game booth at St. John's Festival to help raise funds for the Church.

We have also been spending time helping our Eagle Candidates to complete their Eagle Projects, which are meant to help the community. One project just finished was to build a Bulletin Board and a Mini Library Book Standing Box at the Tenaflly Nature Center. A second project starting now is building Picnic Tables and Flower Boxes with Car Wash Fundraisers at the Cliffside Park High School, where he attends.

The Troop is about to attend summer camp at Camp Turrell for a week. The scouts will be able to sleep and enjoy the outdoors, eat great food, earn badges, learn skills and have fun.

We have the distinction of being one of only two Boy Scout Troops chartered by Greek Orthodox churches in New Jersey. We want the youth or the church to join us and become part of this tradition.

Contact [Hilarispb@aol.com](mailto:Hilarispb@aol.com) for information.



# **SACRAMENTS**

## **Baptisms**

-Lucas, son of Ervin & Rosalyn (Angelidis)  
Shehati, Konstantine & Arissa Paschalidis  
Sponsors

-Leo, son of Paul & Amanda (Rodriguez) Vizoukis,  
Nicholas Vizoukis Sponsor

-Jayden, son of Rafaell & Anastasia (Georgas)  
Rodrigues, Elias Georgas Sponsor

-Leondro, son of Rafaell & Anastasia (Georgas)  
Rodrigues, Dimitrios Georgas Sponsor

-Zoe, daughter of Kyle & Christina (Kamilaris)  
Hopkins, Anastasia Kamilaris Sponsor

-Tsampicos, son of Theodoros & Jennifer (Shiess)  
Perides, Tsampicos Perides Sponsor

-Sami Persephone, daughter of Paul & Christina  
(Stathopoulos) Gaglio, Yianni Stathopoulos &  
Alexia Trikkas Sponsors

-John, son of Sean & Cindy (Kotopoulos)  
Wengertter, Gregory & Demetra Kiriakou Sponsors

-Melina, daughter of Nicholas & Alexandra  
(Kokkinos) Sanders, Jon Kokkinos Sponsor

-Eva, daughter of Phillip & Niki (Tsahalis) Dalton,  
Marjorie Essner Sponsor

-Manos, son of Bobby & Stamatia (Tsismenakis)  
Meidanis, Loukas & Michelle Tasigiannis Sponsors

-Perry, son of Robert & Georgia (Marogiannis)  
Nitu, Alexandra Nicolaou Sponsor

-Oliver, son of Robert & Georgia (Marogiannis)  
Nitu, George Nicolaou Sponsor

-Eva, daughter of Robert & Georgia (Marogiannis)  
Nitu, Mirela Maccia Sponsor

## **Funerals**

Ermioni Bastas

Lela Skiandos

Ariadne Vrakas

Catherine Venetis

James Kyriatzis

William Katsapis

Misha Dabich

Katina Paspalas

Sandra Fernandez

John Lampidis

Theodora Patsalos

Evangelia Kontos

Louis Stylianou

Anthony Chrysikos

John Poulos

Marie Argiriou

Mary Skafidas

**MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL**

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

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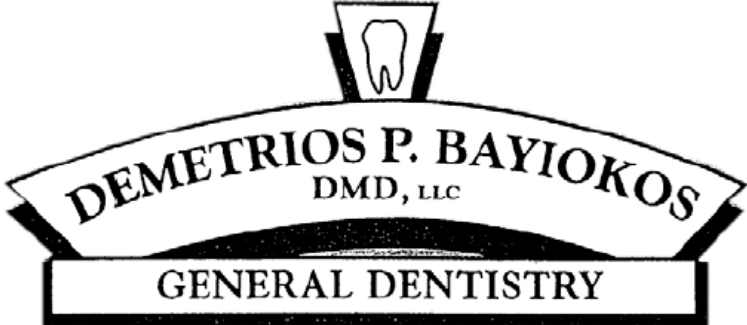
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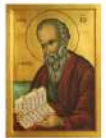
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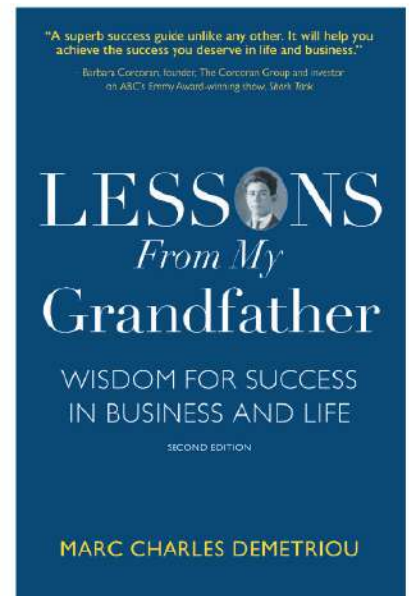
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